

included only on the first of the four columns of each page, sometimes makes it difficult to find the desired entry in the Index. This problem is amply illustrated by perusal of the several pages of references to the Cactaceae.

Ida Langman, the institutions and grantors which supported her work, and the University of Pennsylvania Press deserve our thanks and congratulations for bringing this work to fruition. It is a "must" for all libraries having any interest in Mexico, as well as for all people concerned with any aspect of the plants of the area. Anyone using the volume should first turn to p. 9 and lighten his day by reading "Random Thoughts on Bibliographies."—ANNETTA CARTER, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley.

*The Vascular Plants of Monterey County, California.* By BEATRICE F. HOWITT and JOHN THOMAS HOWELL. The Wasmann Journal of Biology 22(1):ii+1—184. 1964. Published by the University of San Francisco. Available from the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118. \$2.75.

This work is a welcome addition to the floras and annotated checklists of the vascular plants of central California. Monterey County, the area covered by this annotated catalogue, is about 3324 square miles in extent and is located along the California coast south of San Francisco. The vascular flora is made up of 119 families, 539 genera, 1713 specific and infraspecific categories. Of these, 291 are introduced and 37 are endemic. Some 302 species have either their northern or southern limits of distribution in the Coast Ranges in Monterey County. For the Santa Cruz Mountains immediately to the north, the corresponding figure is 242 and for Marin County to the north of San Francisco the figure is 123. Monterey County then would appear to have special significance in the phytogeography of the California Coast Ranges.

The County has been divided into eight major sections based on terrain, and these are discussed, outlined on a map, and the conspicuous plants in them listed. These sections and specific localities within them are used in the catalogue to indicate distribution within the County. There is no discussion of the plant communities, characteristic assemblages of plants, as such. The short section by Oliver E. Bowen outlines the main features of the geology. The arrangement of families follows that of *A California Flora*; common names are listed; specific names are capitalized; and neither keys nor descriptions are included. There are 22 text figures and a frontispiece which depict various vegetation types. Undue emphasis has been given to type localities. Information of this sort for each species adds little to local floristic works except length. More often than not, the geographical location of a type locality is a matter of historical accident rather than of biological significance. It does not follow from the fact that one fifth of the plants in Monterey County have their type locality there that it is (p. 24) ". . . one of the richest and most important research areas for field studies in systematic botany in western America."

Hopefully this work will stimulate local groups and individuals to guard and preserve the diversity of species in this area, an area known to many throughout the world because of the Monterey Cypress and the Monterey Pine.—JOHN H. THOMAS, Dudley Herbarium, Stanford University.

## NOTES AND NEWS

**LABELS FOR HERBARIUM SPECIMENS.**—With relatively few exceptions labels accompanying herbarium specimens are unsatisfactory. Many include only the sketchiest data as to locality; most indicate nothing about habitat, soil type, slope, exposure, associated plants, flower color, etc.; and many are of a very poor quality paper. Often this is understandable. It takes time and/or money to have adequate labels typed or printed. Advances in the art of photo-offset printing have, however, made it possible to produce labels at a reasonable cost, less in fact than it costs to have them typed. At Stanford University, we now routinely have labels made by the offset method even when only 20–25 copies of any particular one are needed.